AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An information search system ~~having~~ comprising:

an information processing apparatus ~~and an information search apparatus which is accessed by the information processing apparatus via a network~~, the information processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for analyzing ~~an~~ electronic mail ~~message~~ associated with a user, the extraction means comprising:

means for grouping the user's electronic mail into topics;

means for extracting from the user's electronic mail ~~to extract an~~ interest ~~word~~ words corresponding to the topics for obtaining information about a television program;

means for generating topic files for the topics, the topic files including word vectors containing the interest words and including feature vectors containing weights of the interest words, the weights indicating the degree of relevance of the interest words to the topics; and

means for calculating evaluation values for the topics based on the weights of the interest words and for selecting topics with an evaluation value above a threshold; and

means for sending a request ~~to the information search apparatus~~ to search television program information based on the interest words corresponding to the selected topics ~~extracted interest word~~; and

means for receiving television program information identified in the search ~~from the information search apparatus~~;

~~the~~ <u>an</u> information search apparatus <u>in communication with the information processing apparatus via a network, the information search apparatus</u> comprising:

means for accumulating the television program information;

means for searching the accumulated television program information for television program information associated with the ~~extracted~~ interest ~~word~~ <u>words corresponding to the selected topics</u> in response to the search request; and

means for sending the television program information identified by the search to the information processing apparatus.

2. (Currently amended) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the extraction means <u>further</u> includes means for performing morphological analysis on the electronic mail ~~message~~ to identify the interest ~~word~~ <u>words</u>.

3. (Currently amended) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus further comprises means for generating a database containing the ~~extracted~~ interest ~~word~~ <u>words</u>.

4. (Previously presented) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus further comprises means for controlling the recording of the television program based on the received television program information.

5. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus further comprises means for controlling the display of the received television program information.

6. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the means for accumulating includes means for making a database by relating the television program information with the television program.

7 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the received television program information includes a recording start time, a recording end time, and channel information for recording the television program.

10. (Currently amended) The information search system according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus acquires the electronic mail ~~message~~ from another information processing apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for analyzing an electronic mail message associated with a user, the extraction means comprising:

means for grouping the user's electronic mail into topics;

means for extracting from the user's electronic mail ~~to extract an~~ interest ~~word~~ words corresponding to the topics for obtaining information associated with a television program;

means for generating topic files for the topics, the topic files including word vectors containing the interest words and including feature vectors containing weights of the interest words, the weights indicating the degree of relevance of the interest words to the topics; and

means for calculating evaluation values for the topics based on the weights of the interest words and for selecting topics with an evaluation value above a threshold; and

means for sending a request to an information search apparatus to search ~~the~~ television program information based on the interest words corresponding to the selected topics ~~extracted interest word~~; and

means for receiving television program information identified in the search from the information search apparatus.

12. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the extraction means further includes means for performing morphological analysis on the electronic mail ~~message~~ to identify the interest ~~word~~ words.

13. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for generating a database containing the ~~extracted~~

interest ~~word~~ <u>words</u>.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for controlling the recording of the television program based on the received television program information.

15. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for controlling the display of the received television program information.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the received television program information includes a recording start time, a recording end time, and channel information for recording the television program.

19. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the electronic mail ~~message~~ is obtained from another information processing apparatus.

20. (Currently amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus having means for controlling the recording of a television program, the method comprising:

analyzing an electronic mail message associated with a user, the analyzing comprising:

grouping the user's electronic mail into topics;

extracting from the user's electronic mail to extract an interest word words corresponding to topics for obtaining information associated with the television program;

generating topic files for the topics, the topic files including word vectors containing the interest words and including feature vectors containing weights of the interest words, the weights indicating the degree of relevance of the interest words to the topics; and

calculating evaluation values for the topics based on the weights of the interest words and for selecting topics with an evaluation value above a threshold;

sending a request to an information search apparatus to search television program information based on the interest words corresponding to the selected topics extracted interest word; and

receiving television program information identified in the search from the information search apparatus.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer-readable software program which, when executed by an information processing

apparatus having means for controlling the recording of a television program, causes the information processing apparatus to perform a method, the method comprising:

analyzing an electronic mail message associated with a user, the analyzing comprising:

grouping the user's electronic mail into topics;

extracting from the user's electronic mail ~~to extract an~~ interest ~~word~~ words corresponding to topics for obtaining information associated with the television program;

generating topic files for the topics, the topic files including word vectors containing the interest words and including feature vectors containing weights of the interest words, the weights indicating the degree of relevance of the interest words to the topics; and

calculating evaluation values for the topics based on the weights of the interest words and for selecting topics with an evaluation value above a threshold;

sending a request to an information search apparatus to search television program information based on the interest words corresponding to the selected topics ~~extracted interest word~~; and

receiving television program information identified in the search from the information search apparatus.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) An information search apparatus, comprising:

means for accumulating information associated with television programs;

means for determining genres of the television programs based on the information associated with the television programs;

means for generating dictionary data for the television programs, the dictionary data correlating the genres of the television programs to keywords contained in the information associated with the television programs;

means for receiving an interest word sent from an information processing apparatus, the interest word ~~having been extracted from an electronic mail message~~ associated with the preferences of a user;

means for determining a keyword based on the interest word;

means for searching the dictionary data based on the keyword to identify a genre corresponding to the keyword;

means for searching the accumulated television program information based on the identified genre corresponding to the keyword ~~extracted interest word~~; and

means for sending television program information identified in the search to the information processing apparatus.

24. (Currently amended) The information search apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the interest word is obtained by performing morphological analysis on ~~the~~ an electronic mail message associated with the user.

25. (Previously Presented) The information search apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the sent television program information contains a recording start time, a recording end time, and a channel information for recording the television program.

26. (Currently amended) The information search apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising[[:]]

~~means for analyzing the accumulated television program information;~~

~~means for generating dictionary data for relating a genre of the accumulated television program information with a keyword based on the analysis; and~~

database generation means for:

identifying television programs that are not assigned genres based on the information associated with the television programs;

searching the dictionary data based on the keywords contained in the information associated with the television programs to identify genres for the identified television programs;

assigning ~~a genre~~ the identified genres to the ~~accumulated~~ identified television programs in the accumulated television program information; ~~based on the dictionary data~~ and

storing the accumulated television program information.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The information search apparatus according to claim ~~26~~ 23, wherein the means for generating dictionary data has keyword detection means for detecting a word contained in metadata of a genre, as a keyword of the genre.

29. (Currently amended) The information search apparatus according to claim ~~26~~ 23, wherein the means for generating dictionary data generates the dictionary data by storing, with the keyword, a frequency at which keyword is detected.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) An information search method for an information search apparatus for searching for information, the method comprising:

accumulating information associated with television programs;

determining genres of the television programs based on the information associated with the television programs;

generating dictionary data for the television programs, the dictionary data correlating the genres of the television programs to keywords contained in the information associated with the television programs;

receiving an interest word sent from an information processing apparatus, the interest word ~~having been extracted from an electronic mail message~~ associated with the preferences of a user;

determining a keyword based on the interest word;

searching the dictionary data based on the keyword to identify a genre
corresponding to the keyword;

searching the accumulated television program information based on the identified
genre corresponding to the keyword ~~extracted interest word~~; and

sending television program information identified by the search to the information
processing apparatus.

32. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a
computer-readable software program which, when executed by an information search
apparatus, causes the information search apparatus to perform a method, the method
comprising:

accumulating information associated with television programs;

determining genres of the television programs based on the information
associated with the television programs;

generating dictionary data for the television programs, the dictionary data
correlating the genres of the television programs to keywords contained in the
information associated with the television programs;

receiving an interest word sent from an information processing apparatus, the
interest word ~~having been extracted from an electronic mail message~~ associated with
the preferences of a user;

determining a keyword based on the interest word;

searching the dictionary data based on the keyword to identify a genre
corresponding to the keyword;

searching the accumulated television program information based on the <u>identified genre corresponding to the keyword</u> ~~extracted interest word~~; and

sending television program information identified by the search to the information processing apparatus.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) An information search system having a mobile terminal apparatus, an information processing apparatus connected to the mobile terminal apparatus via a network, and an information search apparatus which is accessed by the information processing apparatus via the network, the mobile terminal apparatus comprising:

means for generating an electronic mail message associated with a user; and

first transmission means for sending the electronic mail message to the information processing apparatus;

the information processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for analyzing the electronic mail message to extract an interest word for obtaining information associated with a television program;

means for sending a request to the information search apparatus to search for television program information corresponding to the extracted interest word; and

means for receiving television program information identified in the search from the information search apparatus;

the information search apparatus comprising:

means for accumulating <u>information associated with</u> television <u>programs</u> ~~program information~~;

means for determining genres of the television programs based on the information associated with the television programs;

means for generating dictionary data for the television programs, the dictionary data correlating the genres of the television programs to keywords contained in the information associated with the television programs;

means for receiving the extracted interest word from the information processing apparatus;

means for determining a keyword based on the extracted interest word;

means for searching the dictionary data based on the keyword to identify a genre corresponding to the keyword;

means for searching the accumulated television program information based on the <u>identified genre corresponding to the keyword</u> ~~extracted interest word~~ in response to the search request; and

second transmission means for sending television program information identified by the search to the information processing apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 34, wherein the extraction means includes means for performing morphological analysis on the electronic mail message to identify the interest word.

36. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 34, wherein the information processing apparatus further comprises means for controlling the recording of the television program based on the received television program information.

37. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 34, wherein the means for accumulating includes means for generating a database by relating the television program information with the television program.

38. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 34, wherein the electronic mail message includes at least one of a television program name, a genre name, and a cast name.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The information search system according to claim 34, wherein the received television program information contains a recording start time, a recording end time, and channel information for recording the television program.

41 - 54. (Canceled)